

AmerenUE's Response To
Illinois Commerce Commission Data Request
Docket No. 03-0009
AmerenUE's Proposed General Increase
In Natural Gas Rates

UE-ENG 1.26:

Referring to the Company's responses to Staff data requests ENG 1.18 and UE-008, provide a more detailed explanation as to why there was a large increase in the amount for "Meter Reading", account 902, between the test year and the prior years.

Response:

In the test year and in 2001, there was a concerted effort to read every single meter more consistently than had been done in the past. The company was taking these steps in an effort to make the transition to a new billing system as seamless as possible to the customers and deliver exceptional service in the transition. Additionally, in 1999 AmerenUE transitioned its gas meter reading in Illinois to an Automated Meter Reading system. Prior to that time, one labor classification read both gas and electric meters. It is unclear as to whether all costs were accurately allocated between those service types in 1998 and earlier. With the Automated Meter Reading system, meter reading costs are apportioned based on the expenses that are specific to each energy type. There are specific fees for reading gas meters electronically, and they are slightly higher on a per-unit basis than those for reading electric meters in the automated system.

OFFICIAL FILE

ILL. C. C. DOCKET NO. 02-0798, 03-0008 + 03-0009
AG Cross Exhibit No. 4
Witness _____
Date 7/9/03 Reporter cal

Prepared By: John F. Luth
Title: Manager, System Metering
Phone: 314-992-6884
Date: February 5, 2003